



9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG-2016-0114]

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Mantua Creek, Paulsboro, NJ

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of deviation from drawbridge regulation.

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SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has issued a temporary deviation from the operating schedule that governs the CONRAIL Railroad Bridge across the Mantua Creek, mile 1.4, at Paulsboro, NJ. This deviation is necessary to complete bridge construction. This deviation allows the bridge to remain in the closed-to-navigation position.

DATES: This deviation is effective from midnight on March 1, 2016 to midnight on April 1, 2016.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this deviation, [USCG-2016-0114] is available at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Type the docket number in the "SEARCH" box and click "SEARCH". Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this deviation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on

this temporary deviation, call or e-mail Mr. Hal R. Pitts, Bridge Administration Branch Fifth District, Coast Guard, telephone 757-398-6222, email Hal.R.Pitts@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CONRAIL, that owns and operates the CONRAIL Railroad Bridge, has requested a temporary deviation from the current operating regulations to complete construction of the new bridge and the remote operating system. The bridge is a vertical lift draw bridge and has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 2.5 feet above mean high water.

The current operating schedule is set out in 33 CFR 117.729(a). Under this temporary deviation, the bridge will remain in the closed-to-navigation position from midnight on March 1, 2016 to midnight on April 1, 2016 and will open on signal if at least four hours notice is given by telephone at (856) 231-2282.

The Mantua Creek is used by a variety of vessels including small U. S. government and public vessels, small commercial vessels, tug and barge traffic and recreational vessels. The Coast Guard has carefully considered the nature and volume of vessel traffic on the waterway in publishing this temporary deviation.

Vessels able to safely pass through the bridge in the closed position may do so at any time. The bridge will be

able to open for emergencies if at least four hours notice is given by telephone at (856) 231-2282 and there is no immediate alternate route for vessels to pass. The Coast Guard will also inform the users of the waterways through our Local and Broadcast Notices to Mariners of the change in operating schedule for the bridge so that vessel operators can arrange their transit to minimize any impact caused by the temporary deviation.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the drawbridge must return to its regular operating schedule immediately at the end of the effective period of this temporary deviation. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: February 22, 2016.

Hal R. Pitts,  
Bridge Program Manager,  
Fifth Coast Guard District.

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